

(c) the microspheres in said homogeneous population have a median diameter of about 20 to 100 μm ; and

(d) the microspheres in said homogeneous population have an *in vitro* antigen release profile characterized by three phases: a first antigen burst phase, wherein about 0.5 to 30 percent of the antigen is released from the microspheres over a period of about three days after suspension of the microspheres in a release medium; a second slow release phase after the first phase, extending from about the fourth to at least about the thirtieth day after suspension, wherein the daily release of antigen from the microspheres is less than in the first antigen burst phase or a third antigen burst phase; and the third antigen burst phase after the second phase, wherein antigen is released from the microspheres at a rate of greater than 10 percent per week, during a period of from about seven to about 30 days, starting from about 30 to about 180 days after suspension.

4. (Amended) The composition of Claim 1 wherein the median diameter of the microspheres in said homogeneous population is about 30 μm .

6. (Amended) The composition of Claim 5 wherein the adjuvant is encapsulated in microspheres.

7. (Amended) The composition of Claim 5 wherein the adjuvant is coencapsulated with the antigen in the microspheres of said homogenous population.

23. (Twice amended) The composition according to Claim 1 wherein the second slow release phase extends over a period of about 30 days.

24. (Twice amended) The composition according to Claim 1 wherein the second slow release phase extends over a period of about 60 days.

25. (Twice amended) The composition according to Claim 1 wherein the second slow release phase extends over a period of about 90 days.

26. (Twice amended) The composition according to Claim 1 wherein the second slow release phase extends over a period of about 120 days.

27. (Twice amended) The composition according to Claim 1 wherein the second slow release phase extends over a period of about 180 days.

In accordance with 37 CFR § 1.121(c)(1), a marked up version of the above-amended claim(s) showing the changes introduced by the forgoing amendment(s) are provided in Appendix A.